



The **BUFFER**

The Newsletter of Buckeye United Fly Fishers, Inc., Cincinnati, OH

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The President's Fly Box

I am writing this article just before I start packing for the Buffalo Bill Angler Base Camp trip. This is the second time BUFF is participating in this Wyoming trip. As you may remember, last year the river conditions were quite poor, and we had to drive a distance to reach clear rivers. This year, mother nature again released her fury on the area a month ago. Yellowstone National Park had to close for a few weeks due to flooding and washed-out roads. Things have greatly improved, the park has reopened, and we believe that the conditions are now very good. Here is a blog about the North Shoshone River on July 22nd from the North Fork Fly shop: "*The North Fork is fishing great and fishing very well from top to bottom at Gibbs Bridge in Wapiti Valley. Actually, the river fishing is VERY HOT right now.*" So, our rag tag group of 11 fishers will have some positive anticipation as we drive or fly to Cody, Wyoming to start our summer camp. Wish us luck in finding fish and not finding grizzly bears.

Seventy-One BUFF members signed up for the 2022 BUFF BUFF picnic which was on July 12th. It was great to see members and friends that we haven't seen in a while. People fished the pond, tested their casting skills, learned about flies, and enjoyed socializing and a good meal. I must thank the Picnic Team that makes this event fun for all. Here are the people to thank:

- *Tom Bachey - chicken guy*
- *Ken Mandel - potato salad, watermelon, cole slaw, table covers, trout targets*
- *Bryan Tudor - deserts, plates, napkins, utensils, chairman*
- *Jim Hunt - chips*
- *Haruko Mizoguchi - sodas, water, beverages*
- *Jim & Cari Vota - casting course*
- *Jim Neckers - fly tying table*
- *Sara Miller - picnic set up*

It is members like these who make BUFF function so well and make it so fun and enjoyable. Please thank them next time you see them.

I want to encourage everyone to come to the August meeting at the Oasis. Our very own Phil Pursley has years of fishing experiences, fishing lore, wisdom, and just plain stories to share. "Let's Talk Fishing" with Phil in August. See you there!

Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF President

BUFF August Meeting – Wednesday, August 10th

In Person Presentation!

Our August meeting at the Oasis Center starts at 6:00 PM with a social hour and cash bar. Dinner will be served at about 6:30 PM, the business meeting and announcements starts at about 7:15 PM, and our speaker's presentation will start at 7:45 PM.

June Speaker – Phil Pursley, “Let’s Talk Fishin”

Phil Pursley, a BUFF member since 2001, is an avid angler who enjoys fishing for elusive bluegills. He'll be talking in general about fishing, sharing some stories, and welcoming audience participation. Here is his bio –



I started fishing when I was a young boy growing up in rural Brown County, OH. We had a small pond that was filled with “Yellowbelly Catfish”. I was allowed to go fish this little pond and all that I caught were yellowbelly catfish. There wasn't much to do in Brown County Ohio, so I continued to fish and was allowed to go fish the small creek (or as we used to call it “crick”) behind my house. The only fish in the crick were minnows and sunfish. The sunfish were beautiful, and they hooked me on fishing.

As life got in the way of fishing, I didn't really start fishing again until I retired from my first job in the year 2001. I bought a fly rod and joined BUFF at that time. Ever since I have enjoyed what for many of us is a lifelong hobby/sport. It's a hobby that we can never learn everything there is to know about fishing.

I will be talking about fishing and involving the audience in my discussion. The focus of the presentation will be more on sunfish, which are arguably the more prevalent species of fish in many parts of the Midwest and South.

Registration deadline for the in-person meeting is Sunday, August 7th. If you wish to join us for dinner, the cost is \$20. You do not need to purchase dinner to attend, but please register!

August Dinner Menu –

- Chef's Choice Salad
- Boneless Chicken with KY Bourbon BBQ Sauce
- Oven Roasted Rosemary Potatoes
- Seasonal Mixed Vegetables
- Rolls & Butter
- Chef's Choice Dessert
- Iced Tea & Coffee (regular and decaf)

New Club Members!

By Harry Pass, BUFF Membership Director

During the past month we've added 3 new members –

Dave Kirkpatrick, Loveland, OH

Patrick Ortlieb, Columbus, OH

Ian Smith, Milford, OH

Welcome to the club, and we hope to see you at a meeting soon! Also, check out and sign up for activities and programs on the BUFF Website! Finally, you can use the Forum page in the BUFF website to reach out to club members for information, or even if you are just looking for someone to get out with and go fishing!

Save the Date ! – Saturday, February 4th, 2023!!

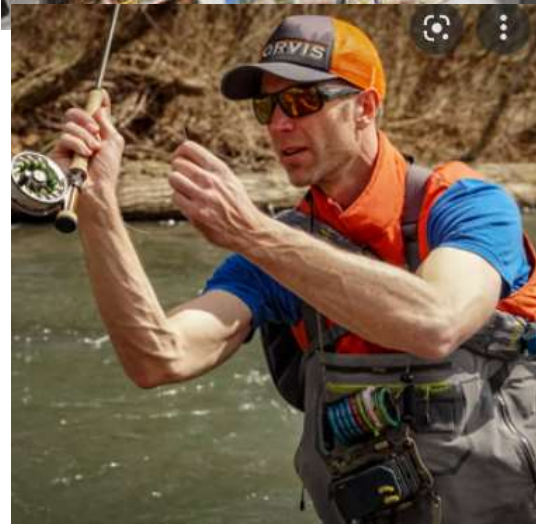
Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show

The BUFF Fly Fishing Show Team is busy organizing the 2023 show. This will be our first show in 3 years ! While we had planned to have a show in 2022, we, as the organizers and the BUFF BOD, opted to cancel it due to the then ongoing high incidence of COVID. Hopefully, 2023 will be different.

News –

George Daniel, who was slated as our headliner for 2022, has committed to do so for the 2023 show! George is from Pennsylvania. He is a previous world champion angler, expert teacher, author, tyer and guide, and an expert on Euro-nymphing. We are extremely happy to welcome him to our event. As usual, we are arranging for George to lead hands-on tying clinics on the Friday (February 3rd) prior to the show. Registration information for these programs will be put on the website later in the fall.

The Show Team is also working to get other presenters from 2022 for the 2023 show, and we already have some confirmations. The list of other possible presenters includes Brian Flechsig and Katie Johnstone from Mad River Outfitters, Canoe Kentucky, Dustin Harley, and tying presentations/demonstrations by Sun Tao, Glen Weisner, and Lance Kekel. We will keep you informed



as commitments are updated.

Help Needed Request – AV Support

Volunteers from the club are what makes the show a success. As usual, we'll be seeking volunteers later this year. However, we have a specific request from Don Kail. He is asking for 1 or 2 members to help with club AV systems during the show. This is an important and critical function for the show, and we want to get commitment and people on on-board now, so they can get trained on our equipment, Please contact Don directly if interested - drkail@yahoo.com



Thank you!

Local Fishing Events in August & September –

Local August outings – *Registration & Information are on the Website*

- **Thursday, August 11th** is the monthly Women's After Work outing. The August outing will meet at 6 PM in downtown Milford on the Little Miami River to fish. Afterwards we'll retire to the Little Miami Brewery for drinks and snacks. This is one of our most fun outings all year. Can't fish? Then plan to meet us at the Brewery at about 8:15 or so. See you on the water!
- **Thursday, August 18th** is the Club Co-ed After Work outing. We'll be on the Little Miami River at Lake Isabella. Yes, there is a nice access point at the park. Meeting at the kayak ramp at 6 PM. If someone wanted to kayak fish this night, it's only 3 miles to the Kelly Nature Preserve ramp and a short drive for pickup.
- **Saturday, August 20th** is our Women's Day Trip. We will be going to the Mad River, near Urbana. This is a trout trip and a chance to see the river from several locations.

Local September outings –

- **Thursday, September 8th** is the last Women's After Work Wading outing for the season. The September outing will meet at 6 PM on the Little Miami River at Lake Isabella Park. Same place as the August 18th Co-ed outing.
- **Thursday, September 15th** is the last co-ed Club After Work Wading outing for the season. It is on the East Fork of the Little Miami River, and we'll meet at Sycamore Park, south of Batavia.

Information and sign-up for all are, or will soon be, posted on the BUFF Website.

Other August Activities –

- **Wednesdays, August 3rd and September 7th** are monthly Fly Casting Skills Development Workshops. They are at Cottell Park in Mason, and start at 6 PM. Information, registration, and directions are on the website.
- **Tuesday, August 16th** is a Stream Quality Monitoring session on the Little Miami River at Bass Island. *Unlike the Saturday sessions, this one will be in the evening, meeting at 6 PM at Bass Island.* Registration and directions are on the website.
- **Friday, August 19th** is the monthly Tie & Lie gathering from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. This is a virtual event on Zoom. The Zoom link is on the website under the calendar page.

Volunteers Needed in August & September –

The club relies on volunteers to support our outside education programs which promote fly fishing. Volunteering is a great opportunity to get involved in activities, and to share the knowledge and enjoyment of being part of BUFF. These are programs designed to introduce individuals with no prior experience of skills in fly fishing to the sport, so one certainly does not need to be an ‘expert’ to participate. We seek individuals who can provide basic instruction on casting and/or fly tying.

- **Saturday August 27th –**

The Izaak Walton League of Mount Healthy is sponsoring a “Women’s Outdoor Day”. It is being held at the Izaak Walton League facility on the Little Miami River in Loveland, OH. BUFF will be providing fly tying and casting instruction throughout the day to those women who attend and sign-up for our programs. *We are looking for BUFF members, and importantly women members of BUFF, to join us to instruct and encourage women to become involved in our sport.*

Registration is open on the club website.

- **Friday & Saturday, September 16th & 16th –**

BUFF will be instructing fly tying and casting to another group of women participating in the “Women’s Outdoor Adventure”, a program sponsored by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Women sign up for instruction on the Friday, and then actually fish on Saturday. The location is Heuston Woods. Sign-up will be coming in August.

- **Saturday, September 24th –**

BUFF will be demonstrating casting and tying as our involvement activity in the “Great Outdoors Weekend”. Location is the Izaak Walton League in Loveland, OH. BUFF has been involved in this event for several years, and kids of all ages will benefit from our instruction. Sign-up for BUFF members to help demonstrate tying and/or casting will be coming in August.

Little Miami River Freshwater Mussels

An Important Watershed Problem Sees Hope on the Horizon?

By Ken Speicher & Bill Schroeder

Mention the word mussel, and most of us think of the infamous zebra mussel, an invasive aquatic critter that has done billions of dollars of damage across the Great Lakes. Or perhaps a tasty menu item at a New Orleans restaurant. But few regard our native midwestern freshwater mussels, as a vital natural source of stream water filtration, and an important component of the food chain in freshwater stream ecosystems, as in serious trouble.

Under the radar? How well do we understand and appreciate the importance of those freshwater mussels – each capable of filtering as much as eight gallons of stream water daily? Who among us recalls a time when historically, healthy freshwater rivers and streams were commonly populated by hundreds of thousands – perhaps millions of live freshwater mussels, delivering beneficial water filtration twenty-four seven. An aquatic animal that spends most of its life half-buried in stream bottom substrate, some have seen shells of dead ones that wash up on sand bars and beaches. Hardly any of us have ever seen a live one. But in recent times, scientists are warning us that freshwater mussels might be the most endangered organisms on the planet. At least thirty-five species of mussels in the US have become extinct over the past three decades. Others are teetering on the brink.

So, what is happening to our freshwater mussel populations? Several factors are likely contributing to their decline. The creation of dams has destroyed or severely degraded habitat for mussels by converting large segments of free-flowing streams to still, deep lake-like pools that collect harmful sediment, ruinous to mussel beds. Chemicals from farms, industry and over-fertilized landscapes degrade water quality and do damage to mussel habitats.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's a thriving button-making industry went viral, harvesting millions of mussels for buttons made from beautiful mussel shells, depleting mussel species and numbers to the brink of extinction and beyond. A more flagrant example of destructive human impact is hard to imagine. True, zippers and modern materials like plastics all but put an end to that practice, but not until after 40 years of unthinkable harm to mussel habitats and species.

Fortunately, freshwater mussels aren't particularly tasty as their saltwater cousins, oysters and clams. Because they filter all types of pollutants, eating them is ill-advised. But wildlife predators such as muskrats, otters, geese, herons, and other shorebirds eat them. Hence, they are acknowledged as valued contributors to wildlife food chains.

Locally, the Little Miami Conservancy (LMC), an Ohio non-profit stewardship group, has been cleaning up and protecting the Little Miami River for over 55 years. They are working to raise awareness of the mussel situation and helping support efforts to do

something about it. One of the important functions of LMC is to acquire and maintain river corridor



conservation easements and preserves along the Little Miami River to help maintain streambank buffers that limit runoff of silt, fertilizer, and other contaminants. LMC also maintains programs for water quality monitoring over most of the 100+ miles of the river corridor.



An advocate for freshwater mussel research and conservation, LMC has recently stepped up its volunteer work on freshwater mussel conservation. For the past two years, LMC volunteers have been working on projects to discover and document diversity of fish species on the main stem and tributaries of the Little Miami. This is a multifaceted process that includes *environmental* DNA (eDNA) sampling and testing at numerous locations along the Little Miami and tributaries. The purpose of the eDNA testing is to document diversity of fish species present in the Little Miami. Fish diversity is key to mussel

reproduction, because mussel propagation in nature requires certain fish species to serve as *hosts* to mussel larvae. Their larvae are released or projected by mussel-mom to attach to a host fish's fins, gills, or other body parts for a couple months in a symbiotic relationship, not harmful to the host fish. While enjoying a free ride on the host fish, those infant mussels derive nutrition from the water to grow and develop until ready to drop off when they are able to survive as viable young mussels. After dropping off the host, they relocate to healthy substrate on the streambed, and hopefully live long, productive lives on their own. Average life span of a freshwater mussel is about 40 years. But given a reasonably healthy environment, some may live more than 100 years.

LMC, its volunteers and supporters have recently taken on additional hands-on volunteer work for mussel conservation, supporting efforts undertaken by US Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, Kentucky Fish and Game, Ohio State University and others also seeking solutions to alarming declines in species and numbers of freshwater mussels. Invited by leaders of these efforts, LMC built 46 special concrete mussel silos for baby mussels acquired from the Center for Mollusk Conservation, in Frankfort, Kentucky where a successful process for *in vitro* fertilization has been developed. Under the supervision of mussel experts, these concrete silos have been deployed with baby mussels in protective containers to help find stream locations with suitable habitat where mussels might someday be re-introduced to form new mussel communities. Several of these silos have been deployed along the main stem of the Little Miami and other streams in the Midwest, as part of a 13-state mussel conservation initiative.



For now, it's a *wait and see* situation. After three months, these silos will be retrieved and the baby mussels measured for growth, examined, and studied to assess how they have fared during their three-month deployments. If these efforts are successful, *hope springs eternal* that vibrant mussel communities and healthy habitats may again become common in the Midwest, the U.S. and globally. Let's hope so.

The photos are from placing the silos in the Little Miami -



Setting Up a Dry-Dropper Rig

By Ken Mandel

The following is from a blog by Spencer Durrant published on the Education page of the Ventures Fly Company Website (www.venturesflyco.com). It is a short article that provides a lot of basic information on this technique. While many anglers are familiar with fishing two flies at once, the information in the blog may be of interest and value to those newer to our sport.

A dry-dropper rig is a very effective way to present flies. It is simple way to cover two areas of the water column with one cast, by providing a nymph which mimics insects in the water column, together with a surface fly, mimicking what may be floating on the water. The concept is shown in the illustration.

The set-up is actually very simple. A bushy dry fly – typically a caddis, Adams, or a foam ant/hopper pattern, is used as the surface fly. Besides a potential attractor for fish, this fly also serves as an indicator if the fish takes the dropper. The dropper is usually a nymph that will fish in the water column. It is tied to dry fly using a piece of tippet. The depth of the dropper depends on current and water depth, with faster and deeper water requiring a longer tippet length.



The article recommends tying the dropper to the hook bend, rather than the eye, of the dry fly, which gives the dry fly more natural motion on the water. The author also recommends using a simple clinch knot to tie the dropper. It is simple, strong, easy to tie, and securely anchors the dropper.

Here is the link to the blog - <https://blog.venturesflyco.com/2022/05/19/setting-up-a-dry-dropper-rig/>
The blog also has a short video which shows how to tie the clinch knot on to the hook bend.

On a personal note, I recently fished this rig with success. While returning to Cincinnati from our recent trip to the UP, Haruko and I stopped for the evening at Gates Au Sable Lodge near Grayling, MI. We had some time before dinner, so we rigged up and fished from the bank right behind the lodge. I had a size 16 parachute Adams as my dry, and a size 22 nymph (a small green glass bean and bit of peacock her) as the dropper. I cast to a near-side riffle where an island with some debris at its head caused the current to split. I was drifting the fly past the debris area and quickly had two takes, both on the dropper. The first fish broke the tippet. The second was a nice sized rainbow, which got off when it jumped. Still, I had fun with two quick hits, both on the small dropper.

Fishing Streamers – Dun Magazine

From Haruko Mizoguchi

Haruko subscribes on-line to Dun Magazine, a fly fishing resource for aimed at women anglers that was started by Jen Ripple. The July issue had an article on effective streamer fishing techniques that impressed her, and she is practicing the suggestions. The article reviews three techniques –

1. **“The Classic”**. This is casting the streamer close to the opposite bank with a downstream mend. After a few quick strips, let the fly just drift with the current. When it comes across the river you can do some more longer strips. These movements help to fly mimic the movements of a bait fish. The article lists 5 ‘steps’ for this technique.
2. **“The Struggling Streamer”**. This is technique is recommended for fishing a streamer in a deeper hole. It is recommended as effective especially when fishing deeper holes in early spring or in winter months.
3. **“The Hungry Leech”** ties an egg pattern as the lead fly with the streamer below it. Doing a standard drift makes it imitate a small fish chasing an egg.



Here is the link to the article: <https://dunmagazine.fliesforsale.com/top-streamer-techniques/?ffst=12napb-fcm6>

Photos From the Past Month

A few photos from our picnic. If you skipped it this year, please plan to join us in 2023!



Dolph Greenberg sent a few nice photos fishing in Michigan with his grandson, and his son, Josh. The brown trout was caught on the Au Sable River and the bass and carp fishing on Lake Michigan by Beaver Island. For those who don't know Josh, he and his spouse Katie own and operate Gate's Au Sable Lodge. The outing to Beaver Island was with a guide, Kevin Morlock who owns Indigo Guide Service.

How about the size of that carp that Josh landed on a fly rod!



If you've been out fishing, please remember to send comments and a photos for the BUFFER !

Upcoming BUFF Activities

Please check the BUFF Website for availability and details, or contact the trip or activity coordinator

In-person activities are limited to BUFF Members, and require Registration (online on club Website) and signing the Club's Liability Waiver

<u>Trip/Activity & Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Trip /Activity Coordinator</u>
Casting Skills Development Cottell Park Mason OH	Wednesday, August 3 rd 6 PM – 8 PM <i>Registration & information on BUFF Website</i>	Tom Scheer
Monthly Meeting Oasis Conference Center Loveland, OH	Wednesday, August 10 th 6 PM – 9 PM	
Women's After Work Fishing Little Miami River Downtown Milford, OH	Thursday, August 11 th 6 PM – Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Stream Quality Monitoring Bass Island, Mariemont, OH	Tuesday, August 16 th Meet at 6 PM	Tom Britton
Board of Directors Meeting Springdale Community Ctr	Wednesday, August 17 th 6:30 – 8:30 PM	Hugh O'Donnell
BUFF Club After Work Fishing Little Miami River, @ Lake Isabella	Thursday, August 18 th 6 PM – Dusk <i>Register on Website</i>	Cari Vota
Tie-& Lie	Friday, August 19 th 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM <i>Virtual Session – Zoom Link</i>	Gary Begley
Women's All Day Wading Trip Mad River Urbana, OH	Saturday, August 20 th Meet 8:30 AM at the airport just north of Urbana, OH	Cari Vota

Directions to Oasis -

Take I-275 and exit at Wards Corner Road (Exit 54). Make the first right onto Loveland-Miamiville Road and follow this. The Oasis golf course will be on your left. At the Paxton Guinea Road crossing, turn left. The clubhouse/conference center and parking lot for the Oasis facility are on the left.

